

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 071522Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 905

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USUN MISSION NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 784

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NAIROBI 7002

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, PFOR, KE, US, SO

SUBJ: RENEWED KENYAN FEARS OF MILITARY ATTACK BY UGANDA

REF: NAIROBI 6778 (NOTAL)

1. PRESIDENTIAL PERMSEC KARIITHI SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON TO EXPRESS HIS HEIGHTENED CONCERN THAT PRESIDENT AMIN PLANS TO ATTACK KENYA IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. (HE HAD PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ON THIS SUBJECT TO US ON JUNE 30, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL.) KENYAN APPREHENSION HAS NOW BEEN FURTHER REINFORCED BY RADIO UGANDA ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY AT 0958 GMT (1258 LOCAL) THAT "30 ENEMY AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN DETECTED BY UGANDA RADAR. AIRCRAFT, BELIEVED TO BE ISRAELI AND AMERICAN, WERE APPROACHING UGANDA FROM KENYA." UGANDA RADIO FURTHER ADVISED PUBLIC "TO BE PREPARED TO DONATE BLOOD FOR EMERGENCY CASES", AND ANNOUNCED THAT ALL MEDICAL SERVICES IN UGANDA SHOULD BE ON STANDBY.

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2. KARIITHI SAID THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, COMING ON HEELS OF

MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA FROM AMIN LAST NIGHT DIRECTLY ACCUSING KENYATTA OF HAVING FACILITATED ISRAELI HIJACK RESCUE, IS TANTAMOUNT TO PUTTING UGANDA ON WAR FOOTING. ALTHOUGH MEETING OF UGANDAN DEFENSE COUNCIL ON MONDAY HAD VOTED 80 PERCENT AGAINST ATTACKING KENYA (AMIN WAS IN MINORITY), AMIN IS APPARENTLY TRYING TO WIN OVER ARMY TO SUPPORT HIM IN WAR ON KENYA, ACCORDING TO KARIITHI.

3. EVEN MORE ALARMING TO GOK IS INTELLIGENCE REPORT THAT TWO AIRCRAFT (BELIEVED TO BE EITHER LIBYAN OR SOVIET) LANDED AT ENTEBBE AIRPORT AT 1000 LOCAL TODAY CARRYING AIRCRAFT SPARES AND SOVIET TECHNICIANS. KENYANS BELIEVE THAT THESE SPARES AND TECHNICIANS WILL BE USED TO MAKE SOVIET-BUILT UGANDA AIR FORCE PLANES LOCATED AT GULU, WHICH HAD BEEN OUT OF COMMISSION FOR LACK OF PARTS, OPERABLE AGAIN. KARIITHI BELIEVES ARRIVAL OF THIS ASSISTANCE MAY BE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ENCOURAGING AMIN'S BELLICOSITY.

4. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY NEW EVIDENCE OF PLANS FOR UGANDAN GROUND ATTACK AGAINST KENYA, KARIITHI REPLIED IN NEGATIVE, BUT MENTIONED THAT ONE UGANDAN BATTALION LOCATED NEAR MBALE, ABOUT 30 MILES FROM KENYA BORDER, HAD BEEN ON FULL ALERT AS OF TWO DAYS AGO. I ALSO ASKED WHETHER KENYA HAD RECENTLY CONSULTED WITH TANZANIA ON THIS SITUATION AND WAS ALSO GIVEN NEGATIVE REPLY. KARIITHI FELT THAT, DESPITE NYERERE'S DISLIKE FOR AMIN, KENYA COULD NOT EXPECT ANY SUPPORT FROM TANZANIA IF UGANDA WERE TO ATTACK.

5. AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, KENYA DELAYING DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO UGANDA NOW IN PORT OF MOMBASA. IN ADDITION, KARIITHI SAID THAT GOK HAS INSTRUCTED RAILROADS TO BE "A LITTLE SLOW" IN DELIVERING OIL TO UGANDA, BUT WILL NOT COMPLETELY SHUT OFF OIL UNLESS WAR SITUATION DEVELOPS. PERMSEC OF DEFENSE KIERINI, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT MEETING, SAID THAT KENYA AREMED FORCES HAVE AGAIN BEEN PLACED ON ALERT. (THEY HAD BEEN ON FULL ALERT ON SUNDAY AND MONDAY AFTER ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION, BUT HAD BEEN TAKEN OFF ALERT ON TUESDAY).

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5. KARIITHI SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WAIYAKI IS LEAVING FOR NEW YORK TONIGHT FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON ISRAELI RESCUE OPERATION. USUN WILL PRESUMABLY WANT TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH HIM ASAP.  
MARSHALL

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